

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SS-15 /051 W
-----126723 221900Z /42

P R 221541Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
TO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 0010
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 PRETORIA 7052

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDEV, RH
SUBJECT: RHODESIA: SITHOLE LETTER TO NYERERE

REF: DAR ES SALAAM 5086, (NOTAL)

FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF THE SITHOLE LETTER:

QUOTE YOUR EXCELLENCY, FRATERNAL AND REVOLUTIONARY GREETINGS
TO YOU.

I REGRET THAT INSPITE OF MY ORIGINAL PLAN TO PASS THROUGH
DAR ES SALAM ON MY WAY TO SALISBURY, I HAVE FOUND THIS IMPOSSIBLE,
OWING TO THE URGENCY OF THE SITUATION BACK IN ZIMBABWE. BUT I
AM DETERMINED TO VISIT YOUR EXCELLENCY WITHIN THE NEXT FORT-
NIGHT AS I AM DYING TO HAVE A FULL DISCUSSSION WITH YOU ON THE
SITUATION IN ZIMBABWE.

I HAVE ASKED VESTA SAUNGWEME, MY SECRETARY FOR SOCIAL WELFARE,
TO SYNCHRONISE MY MOVEMENTS WITH YOURS IN DAR-ES-SALAM SO
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THAT WHEN I GET THERE I AM ABLE TO AVAIL MYSELF OF THE MUCH-
NEEDED OPPORTUNITY TO BRIEF YOUR EXCELLENCY FULLY AND TO SEEK
YOUR OPINION ON CERTAIN MATTERS.

I FEEL I SHOULD LET YOU KNOW AT THIS JUNCTURE MY STAND ON SOME
OF THE FUNDAMENTAL POINTS IN ANTICIPATION OF MY MEETING WITH
YOU IF YOU WILL BE GRACIOUS ENOUGH TO GRANT ME SUCH AN

OPPORTUNITY.

WE OF ZANU DEMAND ELECTIONS BEFORE INDEPENDENCE SO THAT THAT INDEPENDENCE MAY START FROM THE BASIS OF THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE RATHER THAN FROM OF THAT ANYONE OF THE MANY POLITICAL PARTIES OF ZIMBABWE.

WE OF ZIMBABWE DEMAND THAT POWER BE TRANSFERRED TO THE PEOPLE AS A WHOLE AND NOT TO ANY PARTICULAR PARTY OR LEADER SO THAT THROUGH THE INSTRUMENTALITY OF ONE MAN ONE VOTE PEOPLE MAY ELECT LEADERS OF THEIR OWN CHOICE THROUGH THE FREE EXERCISE OF ONE MAN ONE VOTE.

ALTHOUGH SOME PEOPLE SAY THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSALS ARE DEAD, WE OF ZANU DO NOT HOLD THAT VIEW BECAUSE THOSE PROPOSALS WERE NOT INTENDED FOR MR. SMITH OR FOR ANYONE OF THIS SCHOOL OF THOUGHT BUT FOR THE PEOPLE OF ZIMBABWE. AS LONG AS THE PEOPLE OF ZIMBABWE ACCEPT THESE PROPOSALS, THE PROPOSALS ARE NOT DEAD, BUT VERY MUCH ALIVE. FOR EXAMPLE, IF ONE MAN SAYS THE QUESTION OF MAJORITY WILL IS DEAD, WE WILL BE VERY FOOLISH TO ACCEPT THAT IT WAS. IT MAY BE DEAD TO HIM BUT NOT TO THOSE WHO DEMAND IT HERE NOW. THE PROPOSALS ARE WIDELY ACCEPTED BY THE PEOPLE OF ZIMBABWE AND THEY CANNOT THEREFORE BE DEAD.

THEY CAN ONLY BE DEAD TO THE MINORITY WHO REJECT THEM, BUT NOT TO THE MAJORITY WHO ACCEPT THEM.
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WE OF ZANU MAINTAIN THAT THE ARMED STRUGGLE SHOULD CONTINUE, AND THAT THE SANCTIONS SHOULD BE INTENSIFIED UNTIL THERE IS A FORMAL AGREEMENT ON THE MATTER OF ZIMBABWE'S INDEPENDENCE. ANY RELAXATION IN THESE TWO RESPECTS WILL ONLY UNDERMINE OUR BARGAINING POSITION AND FRUSTRATE OUR GALLANT FREEDOM FIGHTERS WHO ARE PREPARED TO PAY THE SUPREME PRICE FOR THE INDEPENDENCE OF OUR COUNTRY. IT WOULD BE A SHAMELESS BETRAYAL OF THE CAUSE FOR WHICH OUR HONOURED DEAD PAID WITH THEIR VERY LIVES.

WE OF ZANU HAVE DECIDED TO JOIN THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT AS PUT FORWARD BY MR. SMITH BUT ONLY ON CONDITION THAT IT IS DONE WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSALS WHICH ARE SO WIDELY ACCEPTED BY THE PEOPLE OF ZIMBABWE AS A WHOLE. WE DO SO BECAUSE HE HAS FOR THE FIRST TIME IN 13 YEARS OF UDI ACCEPTED PUBLICLY THE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPAL OF ONE MAN ONE VOTE, THE REJECTION OF WHICH IS THE ROOT CAUSE OF THE PRESENT WAR. MR. SMITH'S PUBLIC ACCEPTANCE IS, AT LEAST IN THEORY, A REPUDIATION OF RHODESIA'S QUALIFIED FRANCHISE WHICH HAS EFFECTIVELY DENIED THE VOTE TO THE AFRICAN PEOPLE FOR THE LAST 54 YEARS, AND IT IS A REPUDIATION OF WHITE MINORITY RULE AND A RENUNCIATION OF UDI WHICH WAS INTENDED FROM START

TO FINISH TO PREVENT THE BIRTH OF AFRICAN MAJORITY RULE.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 PRETORIA 7052

WE OF ZANU ARE NOT NECESSARILY CONVINCED OF THE SINCERITY
OF MR. IAN SMITH AND THEREFORE WE JOIN INTERNAL SETTLEMENT
EXERCISE FIRST TO TEST RIGOROUSLY HIS SINCERITY AND, SECONDLY
TO FORMALISE THOSE THINGS FOR WHICH OUR SONS AND DAUGHTERS
HAVE PAID WITH THEIR PRECIOUS BLOOD. WE THEREFORE INTEND TO
ADOPT THE FOLLOWING OBJECTIVE CRITERIA TO TEST MR. SMITH'S
SINCERITY WHICH HISTORICALLY WE HAVE EVERY REASON TO DOUBT,
BUT WHICH IN THE LIGHT OF SEEMING CHANGE, WE CANNOT REJECT
OUT OF HAND:

- (A) LIFTING THE BAN ON THE POLITICAL PARTIES;
- (B) RELEASE OF POLITICAL DETAINEES;
- (C) INVITING PATRIOTIC FRONT CO-LEADERS TO THE TALKS;
- (D) LIFTING THE BAN ON AFRICAN POLITICAL WORKS;
- (E) HALTING THE HANGING OF THOSE CONVICTED OF POLITICAL CRIMES;

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(F) HIS ATTITUDE TOWARD WORKING WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE
ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSALS;

(G) GRANTING AMNESTY TO ALL POLITICAL EXILES.

I SHALL TRY MY BEST YOUR EXCELLENCY, TO KEEP YOU INFORMED OF
THIS EXPERIMENT, WHICH, IF PROPERLY HANDLED, COULD MAKE ALL THE
DIFFERENCE TO PEACE AND AN ESCALATING WAR.

WITH KIND REGARDS AND BEST WISHES,

YOURS IN THE STRUGGLE, REV. NDABANINGI SITHOLE, PRESIDENT OF ZANU.

END QUOTE.BOWDLER

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Message Attributes

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